Division hosts President’s Wine Tour of Napa, Sonoma counties

By Steve Nation

President Atkinson, members of the Board of Regents and senior executives from the UC Office of the President joined Vice President Gomes Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 on a visit to wineries and vineyards in Napa and Sonoma counties.

The tour, at the peak of the harvest, provided a behind-the-scenes look at the wine industry in its busiest time of the year.

“The participants learned firsthand about the challenges facing winemakers and grape growers on the North Coast,” said Gomes. “They came away with a better understanding of the Division’s research and extension programs and the many contributions we make to this $7 billion industry.”

Stop 1: The tour began in Napa County the morning of Sept. 30. John Davies, chairman of the Board of Regents, convened a special meeting of the Regents at the UC Davis Oakville Experimental Vineyard. Jim Wolpert, chair of the UCD department of viticulture and enology, led a walking tour of the vineyards, pointing out research trials and computerized monitoring equipment.

Daniel Bosch, vineyard management technician for the Robert Mondavi Winery, described the use of remote sensing, geo-based information and automated monitoring equipment in day-to-day management of vineyard decisions.

He said much of the technology used at M.ondavi was developed with UC scientists and farm advisors.

Over the noon hour, the

continued on p. 6

UC and community partners discuss the challenges of academic outreach

How can Cooperative Extension and its local partners join in the accelerated effort throughout the University to help prepare more California young people for a college education?

This was one of the issues discussed at a forum hosted by Los Angeles County CE in August to discuss the new outreach initiative announced by President Atkinson in January.

The forum, “Supporting Academic Outreach Through Community Partnerships,” gave some of UC’s top outreach administrators — including UC Santa Cruz Chancellor Emeritus Karl Pister, who oversees the Atkinson Outreach Action Plan — the opportunity to share the plan with CE staff and with representatives of some of the local public and private organizations working with UCCE’s acclaimed 4-H After School Activity Program (ASAP) — and to ask them to contribute their ideas.

“The forum gave UC officials a better idea of what the CE staff had to offer,” said 4-H youth development

continued on p. 4

UC budget plan partially restores CE program cuts

President Atkinson’s 1999-2000 operating budget plan for the University, presented to the Board of Regents Oct. 15, includes $2 million as partial restoration of funding cut in the early 1990s from Cooperative Extension programs.

The Regents will consider adopting the $2.7 billion budget plan at their November meeting.
Wine tour (from p. 1)

Division and the Wine Institute, a San Francisco-based wineries association, sponsored a luncheon for industry leaders from Napa County.

During lunch Gomes led a toast to longtime friend of UC, Louis P. Martini, who died Sept. 21 after a short illness.

Step 2: Oakville’s Silver Oak Cellars, a producer of premium cabernet sauvignon wines. Winemaker and CEO Justin Meyer hosted a tour of the wine cellar, storage tanks and bottling line. He also talked about the American Vineyard Foundation (AVF). Meyer said member wineries and growers raise more than $1.5 million annually for viticulture and enology research, with most funds going to UC.

As the tour left Silver Oak, AVF Executive Director Patrick Gleeson and UC plant pathologist Bob Webster talked about the California Competitive Grant Program for Viticulture and Enology. Funded by UC with an industry match from AVF, it focuses on high-priority problems identified by industry. It’s annual budget approaches $1 million.

Step 3: UC Berkeley professor Alex Purcell and UCCE Napa County viticulture farm advisor Ed Weber pointed to highly stressed white zinfandel vines at a Silverado Trail vineyard with symptoms of Pierce’s Disease.

Purcell said his research, funded by UC and AVF, identified riparian vegetation as a primary host for the insect that spreads Pierce’s Disease bacterium. He and Weber described progress in reducing the impacts of the disease by vector control with insecticides, removal of diseased vines and selective management of riparian vegetation.

Step 4: Beringer Vineyards in St. Helena featured a sensory seminar with Director of Research Jane Robichaud and wines poured by winemaker Ed Sbragia.

Robichaud, a UCD grad, emphasized the strong links between UC and industry and how research and new technologies have enhanced the art and science of winemaking.

She helped the group hone their wine-tasting skills using aroma samplers and “wine wheels” developed by UC to identify two varietals. Robichaud said Beringer uses UC research to improve the sensory, aromatic and color aspects of its wine.

During a small reception, Sbragia described the challenges he faces as a California winemaker in creating quality wines. He lauded the contributions of UC to the science of winemaking.

Leaving St. Helena, the bus traveled over coastal foothills to Sonoma County. After checking into the hotel in Windsor, the group boarded the bus for Healdsburg.

Step 5: Simi Winery. Zelma Long, executive president of Simi, hosted dinner. Long said the wine industry “needs continued access to the best research available.”

“It’s the willingness of winemakers and growers to adopt new technologies and be innovators that’s responsible for where we are today,” she said. She added that UC has played a key role in this success.

John DeLuca, president of Wine Institute, echoed Long’s remarks. He cited UC’s contributions to the California wine industry — educating winemakers, conducting cutting-edge research and disseminating new scientific information to the field.

The next morning, the bus headed north to Healdsburg and Dry Creek Valley.

Step 6: Gallo of Sonoma. Matt Gallo, vice president for vineyard operations, and Jeff Lyon, vineyard manager, narrated a tour of the ranch and Gallo’s modern winery. Gallo said the family strives to maintain balance with nature in developing vineyards. He pointed to hundreds of acres of oaks and riparian vegetation alongside new vineyards.

Lyon described the challenges faced in planting thousands of acres of vines on the ranch and at half a dozen other locations in Sonoma County. He said sustainable agricultural practices, including planting native grasses between rows to build soil and reduce erosion, adoption of IPM and biological controls, and low input methods, are core to Gallo’s vineyard management philosophy.

In the barrel cellar, UC assistant enology specialist Christian Butzke and E & J. Gallo Vice President for Research Terry Lee talked about research funded by the California Competitive Grant Program to minimize “stuck fermentation.” This occurs when yeast action stops before sugar has been consumed during fermentation of white wines. Always unplanned, stuck fermentation is very costly, Butzke said. UCD professor Linda Bisson leads a team of scientists seeking solutions to this enology problem.

Lee praised UC and the department of viticulture and enology. Gallo has made a significant investment in its in-house research capability, he said, “but looks to UC for information on cutting-edge science and new technologies.”

The UC group boarded the bus for Windsor.

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Wine tour (from p. 2)

En route, Deborah Golino, director of Foundation Plant Material Service (FPMS) and associate CE specialist at Davis, described FPMS and its services. Golino said FPMS provides the nursery industry with clean rootstocks and cuttings, maintains an importation and quarantine facility and is funded through the sale of clean plant materials. Wine, table and raisin grape products are the largest income generators.

Stop 7: Richard’s Grove and Saralee’s Vineyards, the last stop on the tour.

Rich Kunde, president of Sonoma Grapevines, greeted the group, along with Andy Walker, associate professor with the UCD department of viticulture and enology, and Rhonda Smith, UCCE Sonoma County viticulture farm advisor.

Walker talked about research in genetics, saying it takes 15 to 20 years to breed disease resistance, drought tolerance and other desirable traits in rootstocks. Predicting future problems and needs requires making educated guesses and science-based observations. Walker said biotechnology offers great promise for plant breeding and developing improved rootstocks.

Smith described her work with growers and UC colleagues on rootstock and clonal research, irrigation management and cooperator trials. She also works with growers on pest problems (Pierce’s Disease, phylloxera), demonstrates new UC vineyard management practices and advises growers on varieties of grapes to plant and where. Like Weber in Napa County, Smith has a large client base of growers and private consultants.

Kunde said UC developed many of the rootstocks planted in California.

He emphasized the importance of agricultural research and extension as sound investments in California. Kunde said building stronger partnerships between UC and industry and leveraging private funds are key to future success.

Regent Davies thanked the speakers and closed the meeting, saying, “This has been one of the most educational and informative Regents meetings we’ve had in a long, long time!”

Following this, UC and the Wine Institute sponsored a luncheon for Sonoma County winemakers and grape growers at Richard’s Grove.

In addition to Atkinson and Davies, Gomes hosted Regents Carol Chandler, Meredith Khachigian, Irene Miura, Ralph Ochoa and Kent Vining; UC Senior Vice President Wayne Kennedy; UC Vice Presidents Anne Broome, Bruce Darling, William Gurtner and James Holst; Secretary for the Regents Leigh Trivette and UC Assistant Vice President Steve Arditti.

Associate Vice President Henry Vaux Jr. and Napa CE County Director Dean Donaldson joined the tour for the first day. Sonoma CE Interim County Director Linda Garcia attended the Oct. 1 lunch.

Coordination for the event was provided by Steve Nation, Kay Tabor, Peggy Michel, Kimberly Strassner and Steve Mendivil.

Lindcove completes screenhouse to protect citrus against deadly virus

By Jeannette Warnert

Vice President Gomes and Ted Batkin, president of the Citrus Research Board (see photo at right), were among the guests of honor at the dedication of the UC Citrus Clonal Protection Program screenhouse at the Lindcove Research and Extension Center.

A ribbon cutting, tour, dinner and presentations by Gomes and Batkin, among others, marked the Sept. 28 opening of the 20,000-square-foot screenhouse, designed to provide disease-free parent trees for the California citrus industry.

The screenhouse will be managed and maintained by the Citrus Clonal Protection Program and Lindcove REC to protect trees from aphids that carry the devastating citrus tristeza virus, which is becoming established in the Tulare County citrus-growing region. Construction was funded and coordinated by the Citrus Research Board, a state marketing order that supports citrus research, education and quality assurance programs. The board will also provide yearly operational funds.

Also giving presentations at the dedication were Robert Wynn of the California Department of Food and Agriculture; David Gumpf, a UC Riverside plant pathologist who is an expert in the viral and mycoplasma agents that infect citrus; and Franco Bernardi, chair of the Citrus Research Board.

“Working closely with the industry and the Citrus Research Board, we have been able to add state-of-the-art facilities at Lindcove even when state funds have not been available,” said Louis Whitendale, superintendent of Lindcove REC. “This has been a tremendously effective partnership, both for UC and for California citrus growers.”

In 1995, the industry funded the construction of the Fruit Quality Evaluation Center at Lindcove. The center includes high-tech equipment that allows for grading, washing and packaging of research fruit using commercial methods, without disrupting a commercial packing line.

Warnert is a DANR public information representative.
Outreach forum (from p. 1)

advisor John Pusey, a chief architect of Los Angeles ASAP. “County Extension,” Pusey explained, “has a long history of working with K-12 students. In Los Angeles County, for example, we have community club programs, over 20 4-H After School Activity Programs, youth Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Programs (EFNEP) in a wide variety of schools and agencies and school gardening programs throughout the county.”

The forum, Pusey added, also “gave our county-level collaborators an opportunity to find out what UC’s goals are.”

Joining Pister at the Los Angeles meeting were Robert Polkinghorn Jr., executive director, School/University Partnerships; Hardy Frye, director, Urban Community School Collaboratives; and other officials from the UC Office of the President, UC Riverside and UCLA; the chief of staff of the Los Angeles County Unified School District (the largest district in the state), as well as representatives from several county-based agencies and groups. Also attending were Vice President Gomes and more than a dozen Cooperative Extension personnel from around the state, including Regional Directors Allyn Smith and Nicki King.

Pister opened the session with a “powerful personal testimony regarding the urgent need for the University of California to take every possible step to insure that it truly meets the needs of the state’s diverse residents, in particular the needs of the emerging student population,” Pusey said.

In her presentation, County Director Rachel Mabie outlined some of the major challenges in Los Angeles: the large number of young people who live in the region; its cultural and ethnic diversity and the widespread poverty that diminishes the quality of life and aspirations of its young people.

In a working-lunch roundtable discussion that followed the presentations, the participants were asked to share their concerns as well as their recommendations for achieving academic excellence and fostering University/community engagement. The group concluded that the following issues and challenges, among others, need to be addressed:

■ How can UC campuses work with established agencies, programs and networks that are already serving youth to address critical outreach issues, rather than creating new UC programs?

■ How can county partners help young people achieve the academic benchmarks required for UC admission?

■ How do you make community knowledge accessible to UC faculty, academic staff, program leaders?

■ How can we make UC research more available to schools and communities?

■ How can we work together to address poverty and low academic achievement?

At the end of the forum, Pister, Gomes and other UC officials visited two of the 21 ASAP sites in the county: one at William Mead Homes public housing community in downtown Los Angeles, and the other at Flournoy Elementary in the Watts area of Los Angeles. At both sites, they had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with the kids, staff and volunteers who participate in the program, with 4-H teen leaders in the program who had just returned from the State Leadership Conference held at UC Riverside and with community leaders. “The discussions were intense, candid and engaging,” Pusey said. They touched on the educational and career goals of young people, the challenges found in inner-city communities and schools and the additional support that the UC system might provide.

The forum set the stage for other program development meetings that UC outreach administrators are holding around the state, said 4-H youth development advisor Doree T. Thompson. The most recent meeting, held Oct. 21 in San Ramon, attracted 200 participants, including some CE staff from Northern California, according to Pusey.

Communities Program offers grad internships

Nov. 16 is the deadline for submitting proposals to the California Communities Program (CCP) to fund graduate student internships. The program, now in its third year, supports students working on field projects in conjunction with county Cooperative Extension offices.

To qualify, internships must support county-based projects that reflect the CCP mission to fortify local governance, build citizenship capacity and enhance economic development. The internships provide graduate students with an opportunity to gain professional experience, to build the capacity of county offices to respond to local challenges and to promote campus-county linkages.

Each grant provides about $4,000 for a 3-month, 20-hour per week internship.

For more information, contact CCP Director Dave Campbell (530/754-4328; dave.c.campbell@ucdavis.edu), or Jim Grieshop (530/752-3008; jgrieshop@ucdavis.edu). CCP’s website (http://pubweb.ucdavis.edu/documents/ccp/ccp.html) has more program information.
Names in the news

Irma Adelman and David Zilberman, in the College of Natural Resources department of agricultural and resource economics, were named fellows of the American Agricultural Economics Association, the leading organization in their field. They were two of only four scholars to be chosen as fellows this year.

Adelman, professor emerita, is one of the world’s leading experts on the economics of developing countries.

Zilberman’s research specializes in the economics of agricultural resources, particularly water and pesticides, and the economics of technological change and risk.

Members of the UC Davis department of agricultural and resource economics received a number of honors from American Agricultural Economics Association. James Wilen was honored three times. He received the 3,000-member association’s national award for his distinguished graduate teaching. In addition, an article he co-wrote, “A Model of Regulated Open Access Resource Use” for the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, was honored for the quality of its research discovery and received an honorable mention for outstanding published research. Department Chair Colin Carter was honored for his distinguished policy contribution to the profession.

John Stumbos, DANR’s Davis-based public information representative, won a “silver award” in magazine article writing from Agricultural Communicators in Education (ACE).

His entry — “Sea Grant Extension Crucial Link to Coastal Resources” — appeared in the July-August 1997 issue of California Agriculture, which explored coastal resource issues and provided an overview of the Sea Grant Extension Program for its 25th anniversary in California. Stumbos’ article profiled the work of California’s seven coastal marine advisors and two UC Davis-based Extension specialists.

ACE is an international organization of writers, editors, photographers, graphic artists and communications specialists, faculty and administrators.

John Bowman, a UC Davis assistant professor of plant biology, will receive $100,000 a year for the next two years from the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation as a Beckman Young Investigator. The award is given to young scientists in their first three years of research to foster research in chemistry and the life sciences that will open new avenues for scientific discovery.

Refugio “Will” Rochin, professor emeritus of agricultural and resource economics at UC Davis, was appointed the first director of the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives.

Rochin will oversee a variety of projects designed to increase awareness of the role and contributions of Latinos to the history and culture of the United States. Projects will include exhibitions, programs, collections and studies.

Seymour Gold, a UC Davis professor of environmental planning and a nationally recognized expert on playground safety, was named Citizen of the Year by the Sacramento chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers. Gold has conducted extensive research on recreational safety and in 1990 helped draft playground safety legislation for California.

Francine Bradley, extension poultry specialist at UC Davis, was selected as the first recipient of the Poultry Science Association’s Helen B. Cecil Leadership Award. Bradley received a $3,000 cash prize with the award, which is given for sustained scientific contributions in the field and for significant leadership in the promotion and development of opportunities for women in the area of poultry science.

Among the UC Riverside scholars appointed fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science this year are agricultural engineering professor Andrew Chang, botany professor and Department Chair Elizabeth Lord and entomology professor Mir Mulla.

Madeline Drake and Jennifer Bello of the Natural Reserve System’s office in Oakland, both received GEM Awards from the Office of the President. The staff recognition awards are given yearly.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science awarded Lucia Varela, area IPM advisor, North Coast counties, an Environmental Science and Engineering Fellowship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC. The fellowship began Sept. 1. Her mentor is Janet Anderson, chief of the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division of the Office of Pesticide Programs at EPA. “Her selection is a great honor, as her selection involved a highly competitive process,” said IPM Director Frank Zalom. “This experience will provide the opportunity for Lucia to learn about the operations of the Environmental Protection Agency as it relates to pesticide policies involving worker protection, water quality, partnership programs and especially the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act.”

Lucia Varela
Nov. 18 call-in (from p. 1)

You may provide feedback in several ways:
- On Nov. 18, you can talk with the Advisory Board by joining a Divisionwide conference call. To participate, dial 530/754-8582 anytime between 10 a.m. and noon.
- You can submit your comments via the web page (http://commserv.ucdavis.edu). All comments will be posted.
- You can email your comments to Renelle Green (rfgreen@ucdavis.edu).

If you would prefer a hard copy of the vision plan, contact Green at 530/752-8458 or by email (rfgreen@ucdavis.edu).

The vision plan contains a prioritized list of statements that represent capacities or goals that Communication Services should be able to provide or reach in the next one to five years. In short, it constitutes a second iteration of the kind of planning that formulated the unit in the first place.

What follows is a summary of the plan:

Imaging services/presentation support for DANR
- Create a digitized library of images (photos, slides, artwork) that can be directly accessed by DANR staff.
- Provide expertise, support and training to DANR staff in imaging services.

Incentives/assistance for producing new and revised materials
- Define the range of appropriate incentives and identify obstacles to DANR academics writing and revising educational materials.

Create an administrative structure in Communication Services and economic models to activate the incentives.

Enhance author recognition.

Internal communication via electronic technologies
- Identify the best possible hardware and software options for conferencing (possibilities from desktop include video, audio, white board and application sharing) via a wide area network.
- Pilot test computer conferencing at several locations around the state.
- Develop a model and financial resources for Divisionwide application of the technology.

Marketing products
- Develop a marketing approach, with a customer service focus, that effectively reaches out to a diverse and changing California clientele.
- Increase educational material sales and availability.

Electronic publishing for customers
- Develop methods for preparing and delivering materials in digital form.
- Identify the most promising publications for digital storage, retrieval and reproduction.
- Develop capacity to take advantage of new printing and publishing technologies.

Materials/inventory/sales database
- Develop up-to-date, accessible, accurate database of DANR educational materials, including sales and inventory information.

Training
- Define Communication Services role regarding in-service training.

Web management
- Facilitate development of cohesive, consistent websites within DANR.
- Develop website guidelines, peer review guidelines.

Communications Advisory Board seeks 4 new members

By Ann Senuta

The advisory board to DANR Communication Services is seeking four new members to replace members whose terms are expiring.

Nominations can include, but are not limited to, specialists, advisors and faculty. At least one new member should be a DANR associate editor.

Board members are appointed by Vice President Myers and serve three-year rotating terms. New members will be appointed in January; the first CAB meeting with the new members will be in the spring.

The board provides advice and support to Communication Services Director Bob Sams on program connection, resource allocation prioritization, major policy issues, budget and planning. It also provides oversight of the peer review process for Division educational materials. The board meets at least quarterly.

Nominations are due by Dec. 1. You may nominate yourself or someone else. Send the nomination, along with the address of the candidate, to Sams (email: rwsams@ucdavis.edu). If you are nominating yourself, please indicate your areas of expertise, what prior involvement you have had with Communication Services, and your membership in workgroups, continuing conferences or other coordinating bodies.

Senuta is CS Production Operations manager.
In memoriam

Bob Burns, a former citrus farm advisor in Ventura County, died on Sept. 28 in Ventura. He was 75.

“There is a generation of farm advisors who are legends around here, and Bob Burns and Bud Lee [county director emeritus and avocado advisor] are among them,” said Ventura County Director Larry Yee.

Both men, Yee said, were authorities in subtropical horticulture and played “a significant role in the development of the county’s $300 million citrus industry.” Ventura County now ranks as the United States’ top producer of lemons.

“We were quite a team,” Lee said in a telephone interview from his Ventura home. Local farmers, he recalled, usually grew both citrus and avocados, so he and Burns worked in tandem to solve their production problems and keep them up-to-date on research and new technologies. He added that Burns was “involved in a great deal of research,” including work on mechanical harvesters, citrus pruning and rootstocks.

Advisors still talk about Burns’ “great technical expertise,” (he published more than 200 articles) and his “special way with people,” Yee said, to which Lee added: “Bob always had a smile. He will be missed.”

Bob Cockrell, a UC Berkeley professor emeritus of forestry, died Oct. 10. He was 89.

Cockrell joined the UC Berkeley faculty in 1936. He helped to develop the graduate program in forestry and the Forest Products Laboratory. He is known for research in the mechanical properties of second growth giant sequoia and its use in various applications. He was also involved in the development of the sequoia plant in many parts of the southern Sierra Nevada.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Faulkner Farm. And the Hansen Trust is setting up a scholarship in Burns’ name, Yee said.

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New outreach worker connects Latinos with Cooperative Extension

By Jeannette Warnert

A former high school Spanish teacher and experienced professional in Latino community outreach, Dave Delgado, has been appointed to enrich the services provided by UCCE’s academic staff in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties.

“We wanted more members of the Latino community to access our free information and advising services,” said Sonya Varea Hammond, Monterey county director.

“With schedules full of research obligations, field meetings and consultations initiated by farmers, our advisors had little time to search out those who were in need of our services but not aware of them.”

Working closely with the academic staff, Delgado is attending meetings, calling on farmers, working with the Spanish- and English-language mass media and collaborating with other agencies to increase the participation in Cooperative Extension programs of limited English-speaking and Spanish-speaking farmers and residents.

Dave Delgado, an expert in communications, provides new resources in outreach to Latinos in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties.

Delgado’s appointment is funded for one year by the South Central Region and a grant from the Monterey County Economic Development Council.

“It’s a one-year position, but we hope we can continue to fund it beyond 1999,” Hammond said.

Delgado holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Spanish from UCLA.

Delgado can be reached at 831/759-7350 or by email (cemonterey@ucdavis.edu).

Marsh is newest member of Kern County Cooperative Extension and Shafter Research and Extension Center

By Jeannette Warnert

Brian H. Marsh joined UC on Aug. 31 as agronomy farm advisor for Kern County CE and superintendent of the UC Shafter Research and Extension Center.

His duties include conducting research and extending information to farmers who grow cotton, alfalfa and small grains — commodities with annual production value in Kern County greater than $350 million. In addition, as superintendent of the 160-acre Shafter Research and Extension Center, Marsh will manage cotton research and education programs and supervise the center’s staff.

Marsh was formerly an assistant professor at Kansas State University and agronomist-in-charge at the 220-acre Cornbelt Experiment Field. Born and raised in Patterson, Calif., Marsh left the state to pursue his education. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Utah State University and completed a PhD in soil science at the University of Kentucky in 1990. — JW
Groups can reserve meeting rooms at DANR Statewide Conference for academic staff

By Linda M. Manton

The planning committee is working to ensure that the DANR Statewide Conference will be an outstanding event for all DANR academics.

The theme of the conference is “UC DANR: Changing in Step with California’s Future.”

The conference will be held Feb. 9 and 10 at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento.

Preliminary information will be distributed in early November.

Workgroups, PPACs and other DANR planning/programming groups will have the opportunity to meet prior to or following the conference.

Meeting rooms are available, as follows:

- Feb. 9, from 8 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
- Feb. 10, from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The rooms are available at no cost and will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Meeting rooms are also available on Feb. 8 and Feb. 11. Please note, however, that there will be a room usage charge on these two dates, and room availability is limited.

If your group would like to request a meeting room, please contact me at 209/456-7259 (email: cdfresno@ucdavis.edu). You will need to specify group name, date/time of usage, the number in your group, contact person and their email address. I will confirm your request by email.

Manton, county director of Fresno CE, is co-chair of the DANR Statewide Conference Committee.

Deadline reminder for travel reimbursements

CE specialists and advisors wishing to apply for Professional Society Meeting Reimbursement funds for meetings between January-March 1999 must have requests (form MF-117) no later than Monday, Nov. 9 (the original due date, Nov. 7, is on a Saturday). The form can be obtained by calling 510/987-0067 (email: marylu.mcguire@ucop.edu). Remember: CE specialists and advisors are eligible for one $400 grant per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

Funding alert

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP) has released two requests for proposals for educational events and graduate student awards. Proposals for both RFPs are due by Nov. 6. More information is available on SAREP webpage (http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/).